

# HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2017-18

ENGLISH

Time : 3 hrs.

Class - XII

M.M. : 100

Date – 21.09.2017 (Thursday)

Name of the student \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

## General Instructions-

- This question paper is divided into three Sections.  
Section A : Reading 30 marks  
Section B : Writing Skills 30 marks  
Section C : Literature : Textbooks and Long Reading Text 40 marks
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions carefully and follow them faithfully.
- Do not exceed the word limit while answering the questions.

## SECTION – A (Reading – 30 marks)

**Q.1** Read the passage given below carefully.

- i) How often do we remember to treat others as you would like them to treat you? In our quest to get more and more, we forget that the quality of our lives depends on the kind of personalities we have cultivated for ourselves. Genes might play a role when it comes to one's disposition, but the major portion of our attitudes and behaviour is influenced by the choices we make. So in the beginning of every year should you resolve to make more money, learn a new language, travel more frequently, then you must discontinue to be the same grumpy, impatient soul you always were, should you then not seek to refine your character, focus on nuances like how you treat people, react to challenges and deal with stress situations? For most people such a course would yield rich results.
- ii) According to Mary Thomas, usually our New Year resolutions remain unachieved because we try to achieve the impossible or, sometimes, just add more goals that we wish to accomplish to the list of resolutions, but, strangely, we do not remember much about them during the course of the year as we do not seem to value them enough to complete them. The better option would be to address something fundamental to you, to who you really are, and go ahead with completing them instead of making any drastic resolutions which you will never be able to fulfil. You could resolve to be a better person by having a positive attitude towards people you come across in life. This could involve being nice with the lady who cleans the house, or your colleague who sits near you, but you never interacted with. Another trick is to acknowledge people for the value they add to your personal or professional life. By extending basic courtesies to people around you, you add value to your life and that pays off in the long run.

- iii) Sometimes, we know that there is room for improvement as far as our personalities are concerned but we have little or no idea where to make the start. An easy starting point could be to look for opportunities in one's immediate surroundings. One positive starting point could be taking a positive attitude towards life and dispelling all negative thoughts. You could make a positive beginning by being a better person at work. This means treating everyone with respect. You should not only interact politely, but also value each person's ideas however far removed these may be, to your own. After all, your friend's ideas are an integral part of the organisation to which both of you belong. Inculcating this habit of making an effort to talk to people you would normally not have to interact with on a daily basis, would make you a better person at the workplace.
- iv) Also, you do not have to do something extraordinary to prove your good intentions. Just greeting or smiling at your colleagues first thing in the morning could always brighten someone's day. These are simple things that we are taught while growing but tend to forget as we move through life. So essentially, being better is an exercise in learning to be nice, and you will see that playing nice will get your work done better than scolding or frowning or passing orders.
- v) A purposeful life should contain skills that lead to practical changes. After all, no people are alike, so why should your ideas be the only right solution? A company, where individual differences are nurtured, information is not suppressed, soon becomes a workplace that adds value to its employees, rather than merely extracting work out of them. It makes workers feel intrinsically rewarded. It is, therefore, imperative that co-workers and partners share a camaraderie that transcends mere professional conduct and delivery. Thus, for a person who wishes to remain happy and content, it is as valuable to spend time on nurturing qualities like friendship and consideration as it is on acquiring skills and knowledge.

**1.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options. [4]**

- (a) The quality of our lives depends on .....
- (i) the personalities we have cultivated for ourselves
  - (ii) the number of New Year resolutions we make
  - (iii) the challenges that people give us
  - (iv) None of the above
- (b) Our New Year resolutions remain unfulfilled, according to Mary Thomas, because we .....
- (i) make no resolutions
  - (ii) add more goals than what we can accomplish

- (iii) get caught up with our studies
- (iv) feel happy about them
- (c) To add value to your life you .....
  - (i) must earn more money
  - (ii) become more hardworking
  - (iii) should be nice to the people in your immediate surroundings
  - (iv) only (ii) and (iii)
- (d) Workers feel intrinsically rewarded if .....
  - (i) they are given bonuses
  - (ii) their work is given recognition
  - (iii) their individual differences are acknowledged
  - (iv) none of the above

**1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.**

[6]

- (a) What kind of workplace adds value to its employees?
- (b) What is the key to remain happy and content?
- (c) What are the advantages of being nice to people?
- (d) What are the advantages of extending courtesies to people?
- (e) Mention three resolutions that people usually make in the New Year.
- (f) Why are New Year resolutions left unresolved?

**1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:**

[2]

- (a) the natural qualities of a person's character (para i)
- (b) basic (para ii)

**Q.2 Read the passage given below carefully :**

- i) Since large forest areas were nationalized in colonial times, tribals have been treated by forest departments as encroachers in their own homelands. This changed with the Forest Rights Act, which granted tribals title to land they were cultivating in 2006. The forest departments own all timber in forests, but tribals have rights over minor produce, including grass. They also have the right to manage community forests.
- ii) Implementation in Dediapada was initially terrible : 90% of tribal title applications were rejected. ARCH Vahini, a local NGO led by Anil Patel and Ambrish Metha, took the matter to court. The court allowed a wide range of documents, including satellite photos, to be used to establish title.
- iii) ARCH Vahini started using GPS devices for mapping. Each villager walks with a GPS device to the edge of his field and presses a button. He then walks round

the perimeter of his field and presses another button. The device immediately draws an exact map of the field, which can be downloaded into computers and printed. The maps of all villagers are fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle and superimposed on a satellite map of the village taken in 2006, establishing plot ownership at the time. This has greatly improved the official acceptance rate, though titling is still incomplete.

- iv) I first visited the taluka in 2013 and asked the villagers what they would gain from a legal title. They said it would force the forest department to permit the entry of tractors into their villages, something forbidden till then. They had no desire to stick to living self-sufficient lives in the jungle, as desired by some ideologues. Tribals wanted the good things of life enjoyed by mainstream folk.
- v) When I visited the taluka last month, much had changed. The Supreme Court had held that bamboo was a grass, not a tree. This meant that forest bamboo belonged to the tribals, not the forest department.
- vi) In Dediapada, many bamboo groves had flowered after 2009. Bamboo dies after flowering, so vast amounts of dead, dry bamboo littered the forest floor, becoming a major fire hazard. This convinced the forest department of the urgency of allowing tribals to assert their new ownership rights.
- vii) JK Paper Mills, which once got bamboo from the forest department, was earlier seen as a foe of tribals, robbing them of access to bamboo. But now the gram sabhas, aided by NGOs, negotiated a price of Rs. 2,815 per tonne with the mill for fallen bamboo delivered to the roadside for trucks to lift. Between April 2014 and June 2015, the mill lifted 96,000 tonnes of bamboo. Wages paid totalled a whopping Rs. 12 crore, and the net profit of gram sabhas after all expenses was Rs. 6.5 crore.
- viii) This was a huge income for the 2,500 households in the target villages. At a meeting in the bamboo forest I attended, one-third of the villagers came on motorcycles, bought with the high wages they had earned. Most said they now owned TVs and cellphones. All but two wore shirts and trousers, abandoning the old ganji-dhoti.
- ix) They said the gram sabhas were keeping the profits in bank fixed deposits till their future use was decided. A good chunk will go to soil and forest conservation, planting bamboo in degraded forests, replanting bamboo in the dead areas, and creating vegetation-free fire lines to stop the spread of forest fires.
- x) Hurdles keep appearing. A new divisional forest officer (DFO) refuses to allow more bamboo out of the forest, possibly because a lot lies in a sanctuary. Lawyers say the FRA provides tribal rights even in sanctuaries. If the DFO remains adamant, the gram sabhas plan to go to court.

- xi) JK Mills provided five lakh free bamboo saplings last year and will provide another 10 lakh this year. The former foe has now become a friendly client. The villagers have stopped all grazing in the newly planted areas to protect saplings. The new crop will be cut after four years. Being quality green bamboo, it will fetch a much higher price of Rs. 4,000 per tonne.
- xii) In effect, once-impooverished and powerless villagers have become plantation owners with a regular, substantial income. They are managing the bamboo forests productively. Despite hurdles, this is a social and economic revolution.
- xiii) This holds lessons for tribals in other states. They too should be given bamboo forests to manage, and become plantation owners. That will surely end jungle Maoism.

**2.1 On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options. [2]**

- (a) Tribals are treated as encroachers in their own lands because .....
  - (i) their lands were left fallow by them
  - (ii) the land was used to build roads
  - (iii) it is sanctuary land
  - (iv) forest areas were nationalized in colonial times
- (b) The change that occurred in 2006 was .....
  - (i) tribals went on rioting
  - (ii) the Forest Rights Act granted land rights to tribals
  - (iii) the Forest Rights Act sealed all the land
  - (iv) the tribals left the forests

**2.2 Answer the following questions briefly. [6]**

- (a) What authority do the forest department and tribals have over forests?
- (b) How did the court order affect getting a title of the land in Dediapada?
- (c) What is ARCH Vahini?
- (d) What did the owning of a title give the villagers?
- (e) What was the aim of the villagers?
- (f) What urgency made the forest department relent?

**2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as: [2]**

- (a) a group of tree (para vi)
- (b) large in amount (para xii)

**Q.3 Read the passage given below.**

- i) The tests of life are its plus factors. Overcoming illness and suffering is a plus

factor for it moulds character. Steel is iron plus fire, soil is rock plus heat. So let's include the plus factor in our lives.

- ii) Sometimes the plus factor is more readily seen by the simple-hearted. Myers tells the story of a mother who brought into her home-as a companion to her own son-a little boy who happened to have a hunchback. She had warned her son to be careful not to refer to his disability, and to go right on playing with him as if he were like any other boy.
- iii) The boys were playing and after a few minutes she overheard her son say to his companion: "Do you know what you have got on your back?" The little boy was embarrassed, but before he could reply, his playmate continued: "It is the box in which your wings are and some day God is going to cut it open and then you will fly away and be an angel".
- iv) Often it takes a third eye or a change in focus, to see the plus factor. Walking along the corridors of a hospital recently where patients were struggling with fear of pain and tests, I was perturbed. What gave me fresh perspective were the sayings put up everywhere, intended to uplift. One saying made me conscious of the beauty of the universe in the midst of pain, suffering and struggle. The other saying assured me that God was with me when I was in deep water and that no troubles would overwhelm me.
- v) The import of those sayings also made me aware of the nether springs that flow into people's lives when they touch rock bottom or lonely or even deserted. The nether springs make recovery possible, and they bring peace and patience in the midst of pain and distress.
- vi) The forces of death and destruction are not so much physical as they are psychic and psychological. When malice, hate and hard-heartedness prevail, they get channeled as forces of destruction. Where openness, peace and good-heartedness prevail, the forces of life gush forth to regenerate hope and joy. The life force is triumphant when love overcomes fear. Both fear and love are deep mysteries, but the effect of love is to build whereas fear tends to destroy. Love is often the plus factor that helps build character. It helps us to accept and to overcome suffering. It creates lasting bonds and its reach is infinite.
- vii) It is true that there is no shortage of destructive elements-forces and people who seek to destroy others and in the process, destroy themselves, but at the same time there are signs of love and life everywhere that are constantly enabling us to overcome setbacks. So let's not look only at gloom and doom-let's seek out positivity and happiness. For it is when you seek that you will find what is waiting to be discovered.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum 4). Also give the passage a suitable title.** [5]
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.** [3]

## Section B (Writing Skills - 30 marks)

- Q.4** As the Head Girl or Head Boy of Aakash Vani Public School, **draft a formal invitation** to District Magistrate of your city, asking him to be the Chief Guest at the Annual Sports Day of your school. Provide all the necessary details. [4]

(Word limit- 50 words)

**OR**

You are General Manager of EVL Company which requires posh bungalows on company lease as guest houses. **Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words** under the classified columns to be published in 'The Indian Express'.

- Q.5** You are Sandeep Kumar, Administrator, R.K. Academy. You have to place an order for school uniforms required by the school. **Draft a letter** to the local uniform manufacturer, listing the items required. Also ask for a discount on bulk purchase. (120-150 words) [6]

You can use the following clues.

- Order for school uniforms
- On time delivery of uniforms
- Provide maximum discount on bulk purchase

**OR**

Women are not given the respect and status they deserve in the society. They are stared at, stalked and even molested. We need to change the male mindset about women. **Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor** of a national newspaper, giving your views on the problem. You are Satakshi/Manan,122, Lake Road, Karnal.

- Q.6** Media is misleading youth today. You read about this in a reputed magazine. **Write an article in 150 to 200 words** for the newspaper expressing your views about the same. You can use the following clues. You are Aishwarya/Abhishek. [10]

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| * Misleading agent          | * Unwanted information |
| * Creates violent mentality | * Confuses youth       |
| * Check on shows            | * Remedies             |

**OR**

A glittering Musical Concert was held in your city during the Diwali season. Many noted and budding musicians were present to grace the occasion. **Write a report** covering the event in not more than **150-200 words**. You are Yash/Yashi, Staff Correspondent for 'The Indian Express'. You can use the following clues.

- Idea behind organizing the concert
- Describe the venue and artists performing in the concert
- Celebrities attending the concert

**Q.7** Rising pollution, fast and competitive lifestyle, lack of nutritious food etc. have caused health woes for a large section of our population. Providing health care used to be a charitable and ethical activity. Today, it has become commercialized, a money spinning business. **Write a speech** for your morning assembly in **150-200 words** on ‘ How to provide proper health care facilities’. You are Karun/Karuna. You can use the following clues - **[10]**

- Lack of professional ethics
- Development of basic infrastructure
- Need for more research work
- Awareness among common mass

**OR**

You have to speak in an Inter-School Debate on the topic, “Allowing all the students to pass up to class VIII irrespective of performance is detrimental to the future of children.” **Write a debate** in **150 to 200 words** either for or against the motion. You are Arti/ Rajat.

**Section – C (Literature Textbooks and Long Reading Text) - 40 marks**

**Q.8** **Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.** **[4]**

Far far from gusty waves these children’s faces.  
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor:  
The tall girl with her weighed down head.

- a) Who are these children?
- b) What does the poet mean by ‘gusty waves’?
- c) What has possibly weighed down the tall girl’s head?
- d) Identify the figure of speech used in these lines.

**OR**

Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.  
Now I’ll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

- a) What does Earth teach us?
- b) What will keeping quiet help us to achieve?
- c) Why do you think the poet has used the capital letter ‘E’ in Earth?
- d) Why does the poet count up to twelve?

**Q.9** **Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each.** **[3×4=12]**

- a) What is the significance of the toy tiger in the story, ‘The Tiger King’?
- b) Franz was able to understand everything that day. How was this possible, when it had not been so earlier ?
- c) Why was Gandhiji opposed to Andrews helping him in Champaran?

- d) “But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward”? What was the reward?
- e) What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify in the poem, ‘My Mother at Sixty Six’?
- f) Which two incidents in Douglas’ early life made him scared of water?

**Q.10 Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. [6]**

The peddler’s instance speaks on a general level to the entire society, urging for a different outlook towards those maligned individuals who can be redeemed by compassion and understanding. The rehabilitation programmes at the prisons follow the same value. In the light of the instance mentioned, how do you think society can help individuals, specially juveniles delinquents, from falling prey to petty crimes and habits. Explain.

**OR**

The lesson ‘On the face of it’ is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of disability. Explain.

**Q.11 Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. [6]**

Bring out the significance of the title ‘Lost Spring’. What do you learn about the condition of the children after reading the story.

**OR**

What moral issue does the story ‘Should Wizard Hit Mommy’ convey ?

**Q.12 Attempt any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. [6]**

Why does the narrator say that it was felt in the bar that Mrs. Hall had the better of the Invisible Man? (The Invisible Man)

**OR**

How is Dunstan’s absence regarded by the people in Raveloe? (Silas Mariner)

**Q.13 Attempt any one of the following questions in 120-150 words. [6]**

Who was Mr. Sandy Wadgers? What impression does he leave on the reader? (The Invisible Man)

**OR**

Write a character sketch of Silas Mariner’s friend William Dane. (Silas Mariner)

